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WASHINGTON, Dec. 28—In honor of the fifth anniversary of this Office Pool, an event few readers thought they would have to live to see, we will avert our eyes from last year's results—four right out of fourteen, an all-time low—and go directly to the contest between pundit and reader.

1. Mr. Carter's response to the credit crunch New York City expects next summer will be (a) dramatic and generous; (b) parsimonious but just enough to keep the wolf from the door; (c) headlined by all three daily New York tabloids as "Carter to N.Y. Drop Daid."

2. In the forthcoming Carter Cabinet shuffle, the first member of the happy band to head for Memoir Valley will be (a) James Schlesinger, (b) Mike Blumenthal, (c) Brock Whatsisname.

3. When Gen. George (Ol' Foot-in-Mouth) Brown retires in June as chairman of the Joint Chiefs, his replacement will be (a) Admiral Stansfield Turner, worried about getting his career "fragged" at the C.I.A.; (b) one of the current chiefs: Gen. Bernard Rogers, canal-treaty salesman Gen. David Jones, or Adm. James Holloway; (c) a retired admiral like Elmo Zumwalt, Noel Guylor or Daniel Murphy; (d) retired Gen. Robert Pursley, who was wiretapped by the F.B.I. at the behest of Al Haig, or (e) NATO commander Al Haig.

4. The hottest bestseller of the year will be (a) "Scruples" by Judith Krantz; (b) "In Search of Identity," Sadat's memoirs; (c) H. R. Haldeman's "The Ends of Power" or Richard Nixon's as-yet-untitled memoirs; (d) John Ehrlichman's new novel.

5. The next man to become a force on the international scene will be (a) François Mitterrand; (b) Elliott Richardson, who saved the United States from great mischief by scuttling the Law of the Sea negotiations; (c) Wang Tung-hsing; (d) Konstantin Katushev.

6. At year-end, opinion polls will list the Republican front runner as (a) Howard Baker; (b) Jerry Ford; (c) Ronald Reagan; (d) John Connally, Bob Dole; Jim Thompson, Bob Packwood or some other dark horse.

7. President Carter's biggest political headache will be (a) the fall of Tip O'Neill; (b) a loss of 40 seats in the House; (c) the rise of Jerry Brown; (d) a sense of lame-duckiness.

8. The Republicans' biggest headache will be (a) the double edge of Koreagate; (b) a gain of only 20 seats in the House; (c) the John Connally-Saudi Arabia-Bert Lance connection; (d) bitterness over the Ford-Reagan split on the Panama Canal.

9. The Panama Canal Treaty will be (a) approved by the Senate; (b) maneuvered into the House and beaten there; (c) approved with reservations that will be unwelcome in Latin America; (d) used as the trade-off for a stronger SALT stance and support of Taiwan.

10. Condemned as the biggest cover-upper of 1978 will be (a) Leon Jaworski, for much bluster and little performance in nailing scores of Congressmen on the take from the Koreans; (b) Baltimore pol Ben Civiletti, Pittsburgh pol Peter Flaherty and Atlanta pol Mike Egan for putting the politics back in Justice; (c) the team of Namrata, Kennedy and Beckler, Justice lawyers who refused to recommend a special prosecutor in the Lance investigation and who dragged a foot until a crucial statute of limitations ran out.

11. Most fascinating revelations of international behind-the-scenes stuff will come out in (a) William Colby's "Honorable Men"; (b) the opening of Henry Kissinger's "dead-key scrolls" under the Freedom of Information Act; (c) the Chinese connection of Agha Hilaly.

12. By year-end, the Mideast will see (a) a separate Israel-Egypt peace; (b) three separate deals with Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia; (c) a dramatic turnaround in Syria leading to an overall deal; (d) assassinations and war.

13. Americans' No. 1 fear will be (a) crime; (b) unemployment; (c) inflation; (d) visits from alien beings.

14. President Carter's greatest step forward will be (a) learning to articulate policy in a decent speech; (b) learning to use one problem to solve another, such as appointing Arthur Burns to run the F.B.I.; (c) learning that the campaign is over and governing soon must begin.

15. The President's closet skelton will be (a) that some reporter will expose the true size and cost of the White House staff; (b) what John Moore and the Alston-C&S set could tell about the interregnum; (c) what David Rabhan might tell a publisher for a big contract; (d) commercial exploitation of the White House by family and close aides.

16. Congressional investigation of the year will be into (a) John McGarry for the O'Neill power grab of the Federal Election Commission; (b) OMB's James McIntyre, if Senator Ribicoff is willing to hire special counsel; (c) the go-go banking business in the South; (d) the politically motivated White House reversal of the C.A.B.'s 4-to-1 ruling favoring PanAm, in order to steer business to Robert Strauss's Texas (Braniff) and Jimmy Carter's Georgia (Delta).

All my guesses are (c), and all my sights are set on a buoyant, hotly political, stimulating year. Were it not for my dreary track record on prognostications, I would let out a neoconservative, libertarian whoop for 1978.